



ORGANIC FARMING

- **Organic Farming** – can be understood as an Agriculture method that does not make use of synthetic chemical fertilizers and pesticide
- **Organic farming** thrives on the benefits obtained from recycling and use of natural products. Green manure, biological pest control methods and special cultivation techniques are employed to maintain soil productivity.
- **Organic Agriculture** is a production system that sustains the health of the soils, ecosystem and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity, and cycles adapt to local conditions. **Organic Agriculture** combines traditional innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved.
- **Organic agriculture** aims at the crop biodiversity without any harm to the environment.



What is allowed for Organic Farming

 Organic vs. Natural	Organic	Natural
Toxic pesticides	Not allowed	Allowed
GMOs	Not allowed	Allowed
Antibiotics	Not allowed	Allowed
Growth Hormones	Not allowed	Allowed
Sludge & irradiation	Not allowed	Allowed
Animal welfare requirements	Yes	No
Cows on pasture for pasture season	Yes	No
Lower levels of environment pollution	Yes	No
Farm-to-Table record keeping	Yes	No
Inspections & certification required	Yes	No
Restricted allowable materials	Yes	No

How to become an organic farmer

- The farm or business adopts organic practices, selects a USDA-accredited certifying agent, and submits an application and fees to the certifying agent.
- The certifying agent reviews the application to verify that practices comply with USDA organic regulations.
- An inspector conducts an on-site inspection of the applicant's operation.
- The certifying agent reviews the application and the inspectors report to determine if the applicant complies with the USDA organic regulations.
- The certifying agent issues an organic certificate.
- Any land used to produce raw organic commodities must not have had prohibited substances applied to it for the past three crop years.

Benefits of growing organic grains

- Organic farming provides more nutrients for the soil through natural fertilizers.
- Organic crops earn significant premiums – two or even three times the price of conventional crops.
- Organic crops are free from synthetic chemicals and pesticides
- Can have lower input costs
- Organic farming practices provide better soil fertility and help protect against soil erosion
- Stewards to the land by participating in sustainability practices
- Promotes biodiversity
- Forward contracts allow additional crop insurance coverage by protecting income

Organic Certification Companies

- Eco Cert www.ecocertico.com
- Global Organic Alliance www.goa-online.org
- Oregon Tilth Inc. www.tilth.org
- Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association www.oeffa.org
- IA Organic Certification Program
www.iowaagriculture.gov/AgDiversification/producersPage.asp
- MOSA Certified Organic www.mosaorganic.org
- OneCert Inc. www.onecert.com
- Quality Certification Services www.qcsinfo.org

If you are interested in learning more about our organic contracts, please feel free to contact us:

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